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JAN 3 1950

OFFICE OF SPECIAL OPERATIONS

Washington, D. C.

MEMORANDUM FOR: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR POLICY COORDINATION

SUBJECT: Albanian Operation - French Approach to BKI
and Kossovars for Operations in Albania

1. Reference is made to our memorandum of 22 December 1949 on the above-captioned matter.
2. Additional information which we have received indicates that the Albanian intermediary, acting on behalf of the French Intelligence Service in this matter, has been identified as Nureddin Bey Vlora. This individual first approached Khafer Deva on 15 or 16 December 1949 at which time he queried Deva regarding the latter's political or intelligence commitments to the Americans, the British or the Italians. Vlora is then reported to have offered Deva French support on the same terms as noted in his proposal to the BKI leaders as outlined paragraph 1 of our referenced memorandum. Vlora further stated that this offer originated with the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
3. It is reported that on 21 December Deva, together with certain BKI leaders, met with Vlora and advised him that they would give the French proposition serious consideration if it is submitted in more concrete form. At that meeting one of the BKI leaders stated to Vlora that one of the principal considerations they must take into account before giving a final answer would be the possible American attitude toward such French activities since the Balkan peoples' hopes were at present dependent on the United States. Vlora replied to this statement that the French were undertaking Albanian activity with United States consent.

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4. Viora is reported to be leaving for Paris on approximately 30 December to submit this matter to his principals. He plans to return to Rome by 15 January 1950.

5. In view of the far-reaching policy implications of this report, it is urgently requested that no action of any kind, including passing any or all of this information to your representatives in the field, be taken without prior approval of this office. In view of our operational interest in this matter it is requested this office be provided with OPC views on this development as requested in our memorandum of 23 December.

[Assistant Director
Special Operations]

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